

Yae,

When I was on the late shift and ~~had~~ used library files, I just threw them into the city desk out basket before I left since the clerks were already gone.

I've checked through my stuff and looked around the city desk and haven't the slightest idea where the file is.

Sorry,

Barbara

# Woman's nude body discovered

The nude body of an unidentified woman in her 30s was found Wednesday evening behind a sign in a dirt parking lot at 1014 Webster St.

Oakland police are treating it as a homicide, although they said there were no visible injuries. The cause of death will be determined after an autopsy scheduled for today.

The body was found by two workers retrieving the sign for repair at a nearby sign company. Dirt had been thrown over the body.

Homicide police Sgt. Dan Murray said the body was dumped sometime Tuesday night.



# Journalists talk about what makes a murder

By Mark Paul

Sun. Jan. 11, 1981

On March 10 last year, Dr. Herman Tarnower, author of a popular diet book, was fatally shot by Jean Struven Harris, headmistress of an exclusive Virginia girls' school, after an argument in his suburban New York City home.

News of the killing, the apparent result of a love triangle, was splashed across the pages of the nation's newspapers, including the Oakland Tribune/Eastbay TODAY. In the three weeks after the shooting, the Tribune ran five lengthy stories on the episode, and three shorter ones.

That same month, Rene Stone, 22, of Oakland was shot dead following an argument at a friend's home. Police arrested Michael McCoy, with whom Stone shared her home, at the scene of the crime. The killing was reported in a three-paragraph story in the Tribune.

Why did a violent lovers' quarrel in a posh New York suburb get many columns of space when a similar murder in East Oakland was printed as a small item at the back of the newspaper?

When is a murder news?

The answer to that question is that newspapers have no simple criterion by which they can judge when a murder becomes news. The way the Tribune, or any other newspaper, reports a murder is a complex outcome of a variety of factors, including editorial policy, the news instincts of reporters and editors, their journalistic standards and the limits of time and money.

"Every time a human being loses a life through violence, it is news," says Harry Harris, a Tribune police reporter who covers many murders.

"Every homicide should be reported," he says, "but not all lives are the same, which has something to do with the fact that murders are not all covered in the same way."

"A murder is news when there is something about the crime itself, or the victim, or the suspect, that elevates it to some twisted element of uniqueness," says Lance Williams, courthouse reporter for the Tribune.

"We are more likely to give a lot of attention to a murder that happens in some unusually gruesome

some way," says Susan Shoemaker, a Tribune editor who has been a police reporter. "We are more likely to do a follow-up on a murder that occurs in a public place, or if the victim is some apparently average citizen knocked off in the process of minding his own business."

Formerly, the standard at many newspapers for judging when a murder was news was frankly racist. Nicholas von Hoffman, the nationally syndicated columnist, recalls that during his apprenticeship on the Chicago Daily News editors would brush off reports of a murder on Chicago's South Side with a gruff "Just another killing in nigger-town." The newspaper, like many others, did not print news of black murders.

Racism of that kind is rare at newspapers today. Nevertheless, shared professional judgments about the news value of murder still lead newspapers to pay less attention to killings in poor and minority neighborhoods.

At the Tribune, many reporters and editors believe that Tribune readers do not have much interest in detailed reports on the kind of murders that made up the majority of Oakland's record 145 homicides in 1980. These killings, which some reporters informally refer to as "misdemeanor murders," involve mostly young black men murdered in drug dealings or barroom altercations.

"So many killings are of the same type," says Williams, "that there has to be some element in addition to a human life ended violently."

The elements most commonly cited are those likely to evoke sympathy or interest in the middle-class readers of the newspaper.

"If two people are murdered, one a philanthropist and the other a wino downtown, we are more likely to devote our time to the philanthropist," says Harry Harris. "There is probably a good story behind the killing of the wino — there is probably a good story with every murder — but the philanthropist's murder will be of greater interest to more people."

Journalists do not share the popular idea that readers want a steady diet of murder stories. "People are tired of reading about it," says Harris. "If you ignore murder, you're doing the community a disservice; if you cover a murder in

depth every day, you just sound like you're repeating yourself."

Besides boring readers, too much murder coverage, reporters believe, risks pushing a newspaper over the boundaries of good taste.

"You may pass up some murders because you don't want the paper to look like the Police Gazette," says Williams.

Tribune Editor Robert C. Maynard says that one major factor holding back the newspaper from fuller coverage of murder last year was a fear of being accused of "living off crime."

There is still no consensus among newspapers on how to cover murder. "The big-city papers in places like Chicago, Detroit and Cleveland still give a surprisingly big play to crime," says David Shaw, who writes about the press for the Los Angeles Times.

On the other hand, Shaw points out, newspapers like the New York Times, Washington Post and Los Angeles Times, generally regarded as the most prestigious dailies in the United States, pay little attention to murder, except those known in the profession as "good murders," the killings involving unusual circumstances or prominent citizens, such as Tarnower or Washington physician Michael Halberstam.

The Tribune's reporting of Oakland's record homicide year avoided sensationalism, but at the cost of being flat and uninformative, some reporters believe.

A survey of the news clippings reveals that most murder stories reported the bare-bones facts available from early police investigations. Most stories reported the name of the victim, the cause of death, the circumstances of the murder and, when available, the name of the accused murderer and the supposed motive. Almost every article included a running count of the year's murder total in Oakland. Many stories ran to little more than three or four paragraphs.

Occasionally, when the crime was unusually brutal, a fuller report of the details of the murder was printed. In a few cases, where the victim was widely known, well-liked in the community or left behind a large family, the Tribune followed up on the murder with a poignant story on the victim.

What is strikingly missing from the Tribune's



# er news

coverage, though, is any sense that murder in Oakland had social causes and social effects.

Few stories make clear what motive there was, if any, for the slaying. For example, not until July 24 did the Tribune report a connection between a murder and drugs, though police now say that drugs were a factor in a large proportion of murders last year.

Twice during the year, Harry Harris wrote longer analytical stories, based on police records, providing statistical interpretations of trends in Oakland's murders. These stories stand alone, however, among a hundred others that report murders as isolated, unconnected events.

During 1980, the Tribune did not run any stories on what long-term effect murders may have had on families, communities or the health of the city.

The main reason cited by Tribune editors and reporters for failing to probe deeper into the causes and impact of murder is a lack of time, and reporters. But the alarming increase in homicides is forcing a rethinking of priorities.

"As the number of murders goes up, there is a growing realization at newspapers that murder is not an isolated phenomenon," says David Shaw of the Los Angeles Times. "Attitudes have changed, if for no better reason than because murders are taking place at good addresses."

If newspapers are going to do a better job in helping readers understand the upswing in murder rates, reporters say that they will have to delve into the social factors that cause or encourage violence. This will require paying closer attention to neighborhoods where violence occurs and listening to other voices than those of the police, whose perspectives now dominate most crime coverage in the press.

It will also require newspapers to understand the effect their reporting can have on the climate of society.

"What happens if we dismiss the violent death of a human being in a three-paragraph story?" asks Maynard. "It has to contribute to the disrespect for life. We can do better than that, and we have to."

Mark Paul is an editorial writer for the Oakland Tribune.



JUL 14 1981

## Few clues in strangulation

OAKLAND — Homicide investigators Monday had few clues in the strangulation death of a 63-year-old restaurant busboy who had told friends he wanted to leave town because he had been robbed several times.

Frank Lopez Jr. was found Friday night in his Jefferson Street apartment by a friend who had not seen him for several days. An autopsy by the Alameda County coroner's office revealed he had been strangled.

Homicide Sgt. Dan Murray said the friend, who also lives in the building, found Lopez' door ajar and discovered him lying on his floor.

Murray said apparently nothing is missing from the apartment, and police have no motive for the slaying.

# Nude body of woman is found

JUL 16 1981

MURDER

The bludgeoned, nude body of a 28-year-old woman was found on her blood-soaked bed Wednesday afternoon in her Fruitvale Avenue apartment.

According to Oakland Homicide Sgt. Al Smith, Leonardo Victor, 41, a glass company employee, found the body of his girlfriend, Jayme Jean Adams, when he returned to their apartment at 1620 Fruitvale Ave. shortly after 2:30 p.m.

Smith said Victor had last seen the victim when he came home for lunch around noon.

Smith said there were no signs of forced entry.

The woman suffered massive skull fractures. A claw hammer was found on the bedroom floor and is believed to be the murder weapon.

Smith said he could not establish a motive for the city's 71st homicide of the year.



# Roommate held in slaying

AN ARGUMENT OVER FINANCES LATE FRIDAY NIGHT led to the death of one Oakland woman and the arrest of her roommate, police said.

Responding to a call at an apartment at 255 MacArthur Blvd., police officers found Albertha Mattilda Pla, 22, lying in bed with a gunshot wound to the face. She was rushed to a nearby hospital and was pronounced dead at 5:15 a.m.

Arrested at the scene was Pla's roommate, Nancey Renee Kee, 33. She was being held Saturday for investigation of murder.

Sgt. Frank Mellot said the women apparently had a minor argument over finances when a gun was produced. The weapon discharged, striking the victim in the face.

It was not clear Saturday who owned the gun or who fired it, Mellot said.

The victim had arrived in the Eastbay last September from her native New Jersey. She had been working at the Oakland Naval Exchange.

It was Oakland's 72nd homicide of the year, Mellot said.

MIL 23 1981

## Man found beaten to death in apartment

A two-week resident of Oakland, living in an apartment in exchange for rennovating it, was found beaten to death in his living room Wednesday. He has been tentatively identified as Roberto Brywolf.

Homicide Sgt. Mike Sitterud said Brywolf was apparently asleep on a couch in the apartment at 1248 23rd Ave., when someone apparently gained entry by breaking a window and attacked him with a blunt object of some kind.

Blood was splattered all over the apartment from the savage attack.

The body was discovered about 10:30 a.m. by the owner of the building, Paul Bloch. He told police he met Brywolf two weeks ago when he arrived here from Washington state and allowed him to stay in one of the apartments while he helped repair the building, which was heavily damaged by a fire several months ago.

It was the 73rd homicide in Oakland this year.



# Oakland police probe two slayings

AUG 2 1981

Two West Oakland homicides were being investigated by police late Saturday night.

One man died in a shooting shortly before noon and the other died from wounds inflicted a week ago at a location about six blocks from the latest slaying.

Homicide investigators had not released details about either shooting.

Three persons were in custody and being interrogated by detectives in the latest shooting.

The victim of Saturday's shooting, which took

place in the 1700 block of Seventh Street, was identified by the Alameda County coroner's office as Edward Stark, 61, of 1735 12th St.

Stark died at Merritt Hospital of a gunshot wound in the chest.

The victim of the shooting a week ago in the 1100 block of Willow Street, was identified as Willie Maxwell, 18, 1738 13th St.

He died at Providence Hospital of a gunshot wound to the head.

# Beaten body of man found in hallway

AUG 3 1981

A man was found dead in the hall outside his Oakland apartment early Sunday in the third homicide police investigated during the weekend.

The body of Kenneth Jackson, 42, of 1757 26th Ave., was found at 9 a.m. Witnesses told police they saw two men fleeing the building about that time.

Oakland police said Jackson was the victim of a savage beating.

Investigators have no motive for the attack.

In an unrelated case, Alfred Burkes, 35, 2901 21st Ave. was taken into custody by Oakland police Sunday afternoon in connection with the

See BEATEN, Page B-2



Continued from Page B-1

Saturday slaying of 61-year-old Edward Stark.

Stark, of 1735 12th St., was found shot to death in his apartment Saturday morning. The unemployed man died at Merritt Hospital of a gunshot wound in the chest.

Police are investigating the July 25 shooting of an 18-year-old Oakland man, who died last weekend.

Willie Maxwell, 18, of 1738 13th St., was shot in the head in the 1100 block of Willow Street. He died of his wound shortly before 11 a.m. at Providence Hospital.

Police have no clues in that slaying.

Police have recorded 76 homicides this year in Oakland.

AUG 6 1981

## Skull found in Oakland

OAKLAND — A human skull in a plastic bag was found Wednesday by a man cleaning a downtown parking lot.

The badly decomposed skull was found about 12:45 p.m. against a fence in the rear of the lot in the 1500 block of Grove Street.

Homicide Sgt. Steve Todar said no other portions of a body were found in the vicinity, and police have no idea how old the skull is or how long it was in the lot.

The skull is being examined by the Alameda County coroner's office.

# Police probe 77th Oakland homicide

AUG 10 1981

Homicide detectives are investigating the apparently drug-related death of 29-year-old Randy Kurt Roberts, the 77th recorded homicide in Oakland this year.

According to Sgt. Mike Sitterud, Roberts was found on the living room floor of his apartment at 5677 22nd St. Saturday night, suffering from gunshot wounds to his heart and abdomen.

Roberts, an employee of the Center for Independent Living in Berkeley, where he was a driver for disabled persons, was taken to Providence Hospital where he died at 10:30 p.m.

According to Sitterud, it appears his killer was attempting to rob him of marijuana and cash.

Sitterud said the killer fled on foot to where two persons were waiting in a silver subcompact car. The car sped westbound on 22nd Street.

No suspects have been arrested and the investigation is continuing.



**BR**

AUG 13 1981

## Oakland slaying

OAKLAND — Ronald McDermott, 30, a bartender at the Hof-Brau restaurant, died Wednesday night after being shot while sitting in his car parked near the restaurant, at West Grand Avenue and Broadway.

— It was Oakland's 78th homicide this year.

AUG 14 1981

# Friends mourn death of slain bartender

By Harry Harris  
Tribune Staff Writer

**MURDER**  
**OAKLAND**

Family and friends agree the mahogany bar was Ronald "Truck" McDermott's stage, and the customers his audience.

Thursday, the curtain had fallen and the audience was in mourning.

People at taverns and restaurants downtown and on Piedmont Avenue where the popular bartender plied his trade were dumbfounded Thursday to learn that the curly-haired, muscular, 28-year-old McDermott was shot to death in the street Wednesday night by two men apparently bent on robbery.

McDermott and his girlfriend, whom police wouldn't identify, had just walked out of the Hof Brau restaurant at West Grand and Broadway, where he had worked for the past three years as a bartender.

The two were getting into her car parked across the street when the bandits approached. When McDermott refused to get out of the

car, one of the men shot him in the chest at close range.

He died a short time later in Providence Hospital.

David Leon, owner of the Hof Brau, called McDermott "likable, compassionate, genial and friendly."

Leon's son, Tom, said, "Everyone came to see him because every time he tended bar he'd put on a show."

One of McDermott's closest friends, Bobby McConnell, gestured around the bar at the Copper Kitchen and said, "This was a showcase for him — an act."

"He loved his work and loved to entertain the people," McConnell said.

Al Higgins, tending bar Thursday at the Kerry House on Piedmont Avenue where McDermott once worked said, "The guy just had a personality that went with a bartender."

"I never heard one man around here saying he didn't like Truck."

A former girlfriend, Mary Stoner, cried when she talked about McDermott, remembering when he

was master of ceremonies for the Piedmont Avenue Street Festival.

"He lived, he loved, he was a great person," she said.

Serving as a temporary replacement for McDermott on Thursday behind the bar at the Copper Kitchen was Walter Brill, obviously uncomfortable.

"It's difficult," he admitted. "Truck was a good friend."

# Oakland's 80th murder; man held

AUG 24 1981

The battered body of Larry Lahmann, Oakland's 80th murder victim for 1981, was found Sunday afternoon sprawled in the living room of his apartment at 8089 Fontaine St.

Police, called to the scene by a neighbor shortly before 2 p.m., said the 36-year-old Lahmann suffered massive head injuries.

Police Sgt. Jerry Medsker said later that three men driving Lahmann's car north on Interstate 5 were arrested by Oregon state troopers Sunday night.

Oregon State Police Senior Trooper Roger Paw said one of the men, David W. Ross, 20, of Salem, was being held in the Douglas County jail for investigation of homicide, two counts of robbery, unauthorized use of a vehicle, possession of more than one ounce of marijuana, drunk driving and driving with a suspended license.

The other two men in the car, Paw said, were determined to have no connection with the case and were released.

**See MURDER, Page B-2**



## **Continued from Page B-1**

Medsker declined to discuss a motive for the killing, but described Ross as the "prime suspect."

Although there were no signs of forced entry, items of furniture were missing from the apartment, police said.

Lahmann, who was last seen alive shortly after midnight, operated a meat market at 4015 MacArthur Blvd.

# Man gunned down at Oakland hotel

By Pamela Abouzeid  
and Mike Libbey  
Tribune Staff Writers

MURDER

A 39-year-old West Indies man was gunned down Friday in front of the Royal Hotel in downtown Oakland while defending a newfound friend in an argument, police report.

Phoenix Akumba was shot once in the chest in front of the Royal Hotel, 2000 San Pablo Ave., shortly after 2 a.m. and was pronounced dead an hour later at Providence Hospital.

Police later arrested Jesse Young, 48, a cannery worker who lives at the Royal Hotel, for investigation of murder.

Homicide Sgt. Jim Hahn said witnesses saw Young and Akumba apparently arguing in front of the hotel when Akumba was shot.

Hahn said Akumba had come to the aid of 34-year-old transient Ken Barrett, whom Young had tried to push

around on the sidewalk.

"As best I can understand," Hahn said, "Barrett had refused to move out of the way for Young to pass on the sidewalk. Akumba intervened in the argument and was shot."

A .38-caliber handgun was recovered in Young's hotel room, Hahn said. After witnesses told police of Young's possible involvement, Young was brought in for questioning.

As many as eight people, including the victim's girlfriend, witnessed the shooting. Officer Mike Clark was on patrol a block away, heard the gunshot and was on the scene within a moment.

Hahn said Akumba was unemployed and had been living with his girlfriend at the Palm Motel on West Grand Avenue.

His was the 82nd homicide in Oakland this year.

AUG 26 1981

## Jogger finds body

OAKLAND — The body of 46-year-old Van Melvin Ashley of Richmond, shot in the torso, was found in an industrial park near Hegenberger Road Tuesday afternoon by a jogger.

Homicide Sgt. Burnie Matthews said the jogger saw the body between the road and the tidal canal and flagged down an East Bay Regional Park District ranger who was driving by. It was the city's 81st homicide this year.



# San Leandro man slain as

## he washes car

MURDER

A man cleaning his car in a car wash at 24th Avenue and Foothill Boulevard in East Oakland was gunned down and killed early Saturday afternoon.

Police tentatively identified the victim as Vernon Hudson, 27, whose last known address was in San Leandro.

Witnesses told police that a bearded man in his late 20s, wearing a black hat, walked up to Hudson shortly after 1 p.m., pulled out a pistol and fired at least three shots.

Hudson stumbled and fell to the sidewalk as the gunman ran up the street and jumped into a waiting sedan, which then sped north on 24th Avenue.

It was Oakland's 83rd murder of the year.

Oakland police homicide Sgt. Mike Sitterud said the investigation has not yet turned up a suspect or a motive. He said Hudson, whose family lives in Detroit, is believed to have been employed as a salesman of men's grooming aids.

# Man seeks help but gun wound proves fatal

SEP 2 1988

MURDER

Eric A. Gauff, a 27-year-old Oakland man, was fatally wounded Tuesday night in the 500 block of Bellevue Avenue in Lakeside Park near Lake Merritt.

Police Sgt. Dan Murray said Gauff suffered multiple gunshot wounds in the head and chest at about 6 p.m.

After being shot, Gauff got into his car and either attempted to flee from his attackers or tried to find help. But his car crashed into a parked car a block away.

Residents and witnesses in the area thought Gauff had been in an accident until investigating officers found blood in his car and on the ground.

Murray said Gauff was taken to Providence Hospital, where he died in surgery at 7:30 p.m. He was Oakland's 84th homicide of the year.

Murray said Gauff was with two men and a woman in a 1974 brown Pontiac who fled after the shooting. He urged witnesses to contact the Police Department homicide detail.

letter said.

SEP 3 1984

# Man's bloody body found

A man's bloody body was found today in the bedroom of a neat adobe home in a quiet residential area of East Oakland, apparently the city's 86th homicide victim of the year.

The man's identity was not released until relatives could be notified, and the cause of death was not expected to be known until lab tests are completed late

today or Friday.

Homicide Sgt. Dan Murray said the victim had been dead for several days. A friend found the body at 8:30 a.m. in the bedroom of 3527 California St.

An elderly neighbor said she had not seen the man, who reportedly lived alone in the one-story home, for five days and had assumed he was on vacation.



SEP 3 1981

## Oakland man slain

OAKLAND — A 29-year-old man was shot to death Wednesday in a house in the 2600 block of Adeline Street.

Police found the body of D'Orcey Gohles-ton, an Oakland resident, at 8:30 a.m. inside the house where he had apparently been killed. According to Sgt. Steve Todar, Gohles-ton had been periodically staying there.

There were no witnesses to the city's 85th homicide of 1981, and there are no suspects.

# Bludgeoning victim found dead in home

OAKLAND — A 33-year-old man was found bludgeoned to death in his Oakland home early Thursday morning, the city's 86th homicide victim this year.

Patrick Riley was killed several days ago, according to Homicide Sgt. Dan Murray, but his death was not discovered until a friend checked the house at 3527 California St. and found Riley dead in his bed around 8:30 a.m.

He had multiple injuries to the head, probably caused by a blunt object, the Alameda County Coroner's Office said, but the exact cause of death is still under investigation pending autopsy results.

Colleagues at the Industrial Indemnity Insurance Co. in San Francisco, where he was employed as a department supervisor, became worried after Riley failed to appear for work Monday.

No arrests have been made in connection with the homicide.

Murray said there were no signs of forced entry into Riley's home.

# Oakland woman found strangled in her apartment

By Jim Douthit  
Tribune Staff Writer

MURDER

When widowed Sylvia Readir, 60, was found dead in her West Oakland apartment on Campbell Street Saturday morning by a neighbor, it was thought she had succumbed to natural causes in her sleep.

But when examined by Alameda County coroner's deputies, it appeared she had been strangled.

"She was apparently murdered," said homicide Sgt. Steven Todar. "It looks like she was strangled but the exact cause of death won't be known until the autopsy is complete.

"At present, we have no clues and no motives," he said.

"We suspect the motive might have been robbery. We can find no money in her apartment although she is known to have recently received a disability check."

Readir was last seen alive shortly before midnight when she left a nearby senior citizens center to walk back to her apartment.

A native of Hooks, Texas, Readir was the widow of a railroad man and had lived alone for some years, according to her nearest surviving relative, Margaret McCutcheon, an aunt.

"She and her husband came here in the '30s," McCutcheon said. "They had two children, a boy and a girl, but they have all passed.

"She was a quiet, settled lady," her aunt said. "She was active in the West Side Baptist Church and the Senior Citizens' Social Club (at 1640 7th St.). She didn't have an enemy in the world."

Police are appealing to anyone who might know anything about her death to call the homicide section at 273-3821 and ask for Todar or Sgt. Dan Murray.

Readir was the 87th Oakland homicide since Jan. 1, the fourth since last Tuesday.

SEP 9 1984

## Gunshot victim dies

MURDER

OAKLAND — Johnny M. Smith, 31, was shot in the chest by an unknown gunman in front of a service station at 1951 23rd Ave. Tuesday, and died in an ambulance on the way to Highland Hospital.

Homicide Sgt. Al Smith said no motive is known, and no witnesses have been found. The shooting at 3:05 p.m. was reported in an anonymous phone call to police.

Smith, a 24th Avenue resident, is Oakland's 88th known homicide victim this year.



SEP 10 1987

## Tenant held in killing

OAKLAND — A tenant in a house owned by a man who was shot to death Tuesday was arrested for investigation of murder Wednesday, when police learned of recent disputes between the two men over back rent.

The tenant was identified as Johnny Jasper, 44, who is being held without bail in Oakland City Jail.

Police said the victim, Johnny Smith, 31, a carpenter, owned a home at 1933 24th Ave. where the suspect had rented since October.

Smith had been trying to get him out since July, claiming the rent was two months behind, police said. Tuesday he went to the 24th Avenue house for a conversation with the tenant.

As Smith walked away from the house, he was followed, police said, and in the 1900 block of 23rd Avenue there was a confrontation that ended in the shooting.

SEP 16 1981

## Man slain in Oakland

OAKLAND — Police found the body of Tom Thomas, 56, lying in a pool of blood Tuesday afternoon in his South Elmhurst Street home here.

"There was evidence of a terrific struggle having taken place," said homicide Sgt. Jerry Medsker. He said a trail of blood led out the front door.

Police were called by neighbors, who noticed a damaged window shade and reported they had seen no activity in the house since Monday.

Police said Thomas, a retired teamster who owned rental property, was apparently beaten and stabbed. The Alameda County coroner was to conduct an autopsy today.

# Oakland man shot to death; suspect arrested

By Abby Cohn  
Tribune Staff Writer

MURDER

A 61-year-old man who got up before dawn Saturday to collect aluminum cans and golf balls was shot and killed near his East Oakland home in an apparent robbery attempt, police said.

The victim, John Carbone, who lived on MacArthur Boulevard, often sold the cans and golf balls he picked up on such expeditions to buy gifts for relatives and friends, authorities said. He was a sheet metal worker at Aladdin Heating Corp. in San Leandro.

Moments after the 5:30 a.m. shooting, police arrested Edward

Houston, 21, of Oakland as he walked about a block away from the street corner at 60th Avenue and MacArthur Boulevard, where Carbone was shot.

Carbone, the city's 89th murder victim this year, was shot in the head. He died about four hours later at Highland Hospital.

"It looked like he'd stopped off to pick up some cans and then was going up to the golf course", according to Oakland homicide Sgt. Frank Mellott.

Police said Carbone had left his house just five or 10 minutes earlier. In his car, police found a sack of empty cans and a pair of spiked

shoes.

Authorities were unable to determine whether the armed assailant got any money. Nor could police be certain whether robbery was the motive for the attack.

"At this point, we haven't been able to determine if there was any loss," Mellott said.

He said the dead man's wife, Rosemary, didn't know whether her husband was carrying any money when he left the house. He was carrying none when he was found lying wounded on the sidewalk.

Father Jerry Dybdal, pastor of

St. Cyril's Church, said the Carbones were longtime residents of the neighborhood.

"He's lived there for 30 years, for sure," Dybdal said. He described Carbone's wife as a "very conscientious" parishioner.

Police officers, responding to the sound of gunfire, recovered a small handgun and arrested Houston on suspicion of murder. He was being held in Oakland jail.

Mellott said ballistics tests would be conducted to determine whether the recovered pistol was the weapon used in the shooting.

# Oakland student slain

MURDER

SEP 17 1981

OAKLAND — The body of Peggy McDaniels, 28, a student at San Francisco State University who worked nights for the U.S. Postal Service, was found Wednesday evening in her Masterson Street apartment here.

Investigators said her death was an obvious homicide.

The body was discovered by police after relatives had asked the building manager to open the apartment door because they had not heard from McDaniels for several days.

"Police asked us not to say much about what we found," said the manager, Mrs. J.F. Blanco. "She was a very quiet girl who lived here for the past three years. We have been away for 10 days and that was the last time we saw her."

Police said they have no motives in the killing and no suspects.



# Wager on prizefight ends in slaying

SEP 17 1981

MURDER

An Oakland warehouse superintendent who had lost a bet on the Thomas Hearn-Ray Leonard championship fight Wednesday night was stabbed to death early today in an argument over when he would pay off the debt.

Police said the victim, Nathaniel Brown, 33, had made a \$100 bet on the fight with Lawrence A. Marbley, 26. After the fight, Brown went to Marbley's 52nd Avenue home to discuss payment of the money.

Sgt. Mike Sitterud said Marbley told police Brown had brought only \$50 with him and asked if he could pay the debt later.

Brown then asked for a chance to win the money back in a card

game, Sitterud said. But in a subsequent poker game, Brown lost another \$80.

In his statement, Marbley said that when he refused to extend credit any further, a fight broke out and Brown ended up being stabbed in the stomach.

Brown was found outside Marbley's home at 1:30 a.m. and died at Highland Hospital about three hours later.

About 20 minutes after Brown was found, Marbley flagged down Oakland police officer Ronald Frank and turned himself in.

Marbley, an unemployed warehouseman who had once worked with Brown, was booked for investigation of murder.

SEP 24 1981

## **Argument ends in killing**

MURDER

OAKLAND — A man was killed and his roommate jailed Thursday after an apparent falling out at their Alvin Groom Court apartment.

According to neighbors, Arvid Eugene Swanson, 24, a cable television salesman, and Danny Knox, 31, who has been staying at Swanson's apartment, had a violent argument Wednesday morning.

Swanson was trying to get Knox to move out, according to police.

"It was during a physical altercation that a weapon was produced by Mr. Knox and the shooting occurred," detectives said.

Police found Swanson was dead at the scene. Knox was jailed for investigation of murder.

SEP 29 1981

## Woman in roof attack dies

MURDER

OAKLAND — Lori McKee, a woman thrown off the roof of a downtown building by two men who police believe were trying to rape her, has died of her injuries without having regained consciousness.

The 20-year-old became the city's 97th homicide victim of 1981.

Homicide Sgt. Jim Hahn said the two men seen dragging her into a building in the 1600 block of San Pablo Avenue last Tuesday are still being sought.

# Man shot to death at college identified

A transient who had been camping on the sprawling campus of St. Albert's College near College Avenue in Oakland was shot to death Wednesday.

Police identified him as William Anthony Bissell, 41, who became Oakland's 98th homicide of 1981.

There was no indication of a motive for the shooting.

The Rev. Paul Scanlon, dean of students at the college, said students heard gunfire at about 10 a.m. from the rear of the campus. When they checked, they saw the wounded man staggering toward them, apparently shot several times.

The man collapsed and was taken to Alta Bates Hospital in Berkeley, where he later died.

The Rev. Scanlon said a sleeping bag that apparently belonged to the man was found at the rear of the campus near Miles Avenue.

He said the man had been seen in the area recently and was one of several transients fed by nuns at the college, located at 5890 Birch Court.



# Gunshot victim 99th homicide

A 24-year-old man, taken to an Oakland hospital by a motorist who saw him staggering on a West Oakland street, died Saturday morning of a gunshot wound to the chest.

The victim, Fred Harris Jr. of 63rd Street, became Oakland's 99th homicide victim this year.

Sgt. Dan Murray said he thinks the man was shot in a personal dispute that occurred in the 800 block of 37th Street about 3 a.m. Saturday.

Despite his chest wound, Harris was able to attract the attention of a passing motorist, who took him to Providence Hospital where he died.

# Woman charged with murder of her common-law husband

An Oakland woman was charged with murder Sunday, in the shooting death of her common-law husband.

The homicide was the 100th in Oakland this year.

Etta Pettigrew, 30, is being held in the slaying of William McKinley Johnson, 36, at their apartment at 3025 Grove St., Number 2.

Oakland police said two Housing Authority officers went to that address to investigate a complaint about gambling just after 11:30 p.m. Saturday.

When they arrived, they said they saw Etta Pettigrew carrying a rifle and chasing through a parking lot after an unarmed man, her former husband John Pettigrew.

Housing authority officers D. Broussard and Preston Rose dis-

armed her, then discovered Johnson lying on the kitchen floor of the Grove Street apartment with a bullet wound in his chest. Johnson was pronounced dead at Providence Hospital at 3 a.m. Sunday.

Oakland police said a preliminary investigation showed that during an argument among three people a rifle was brandished and Johnson shot when he attempted to disarm the individual.

# Suspect held in potato chip beating death

OCT 7 1987  
An Oakland man was charged with murder Tuesday after another man was beaten to death during a quarrel over the purchase of a 25-cent bag of potato chips.

John Douglas, who was arrested Friday, remained in custody Tuesday. A second suspect, whom police declined to identify, was still being sought.

Kenneth Jackson, 42, was beaten and stomped to death Aug. 2 in his 26th Avenue apartment.

Witnesses told police that the dispute broke out after Jackson and some friends returned to the apartment building after buying some chips for two other men.

After one of Jackson's friends told the suspects she was surprised they had agreed to pay for the chips, police Sgt. Jim Hahn said, the two men followed Jackson into his apartment and allegedly began beating Jackson.

After the beating, Hahn said, the assailants went through Jackson's wallet and took some liquor from the apartment.

Hahn said police have been looking for Douglas since shortly after Jackson's death. He is also charged with robbery in connection with the case.

# Man is slain in downtown Oakland

OCT 11 1981

By Jim Douthit  
and Gene Ayres  
Tribune Staff Writers

A 26-year-old Oakland man was shot to death near the intersection of 8th and Grove streets, Saturday evening, with dozens of police officers conducting a futile two-hour search for his assailant through throngs of grocery shoppers at nearby markets.

The victim was gunned down about 5 p.m., then shot again by his assailant as he lay in the street. The second shots were witnessed by motorcycle officer Rudy Martin, who was alerted by the shots while investigating a traffic incident two blocks north on Grove.

The gunshot victim was identi-

fied by homicide Sgt. James Hahn as Charles Merchant, 26, of 2170 East 28th St.

No motive was immediately discovered, Hahn said.

Although the officers, quickly summoned to the scene by Martin on his radio, could find no suspect as they searched the crowded streets, two suspects were being questioned late Saturday night by Hayward police for a possible connection with the crime, Hahn said.

Martin reported that when he saw the assailant firing at the downed victim, he gunned his cycle toward the incident and actually grabbed the assailant with the help of off-duty officers

Keith Karlan and Ken Nakano, who had been passing by.

But the man squirmed away and ran along 9th Street toward Housewife's Market at 9th and Jefferson streets.

Martin fired three shots at the fleeing man but apparently did not hit him, Hahn said.

Merchant was shot while standing next to a green Toyota sedan, parked northbound on Grove Street.

Police believe the vehicle, which bore a personalized license plate, "WHOASK U," and a parking sticker of the 351st Major U.S. Army Reserve Command, Mt. View, belonged to the victim.



# **A second Williams' daughter dies violently**

**MURDER**

Orville and Parthenia Williams of Oakland have lost two daughters by violent death in less than one month.

The first was Karen Williams, the World Airways flight attendant and former Miss Oakland who was crushed to death in a crew elevator aboard an airplane flight to London September 20.

The second was Joya Williams, whose body was found Sunday morning by Oakland police in a bedroom closet of her home. She had been shot to death.

The sisters were one year apart in age. Joya was 25; Karen was 24.

Oakland police Sgt. Burnie Matthews said a man called the police department at 5:15 Sunday morning, saying he had shot his wife. When police arrived in the 1400 block of 98th Avenue they found James Henderson, 42, standing in the doorway of his home.

Joya Williams was found dead of gunshot wounds, apparently following a domestic dispute, Matthews said. He added that Henderson made a statement and was arrested for investigation of murder. He is being held at Oakland City Jail.

Henderson and Joya Williams had lived together for six or seven years, and were married last month, Matthews said.

The couple has two children, Matthews said: a four-year-old daughter named Janel and a two-week-old son named Jamar. The children are in temporary custody in a foster home.

—Wanda MacClary

# Three found slain in Oakland home

By Jim Greaver and Don DeMain  
Tribune Staff Writers

OCT 20 1981

The bodies of two men and a woman were found Monday night in what police say may be drug-related killings in a house at 5957 Marshall St. in North Oakland.

Police identified the victims early today as Betty Goodwin, 39, and Tom Lee Walter, 36, who lived at the address, and Anthony

Sciozzari, 38, of 21641 Montgomery St., Hayward.

Lt. Terry Green said all three bodies were found with their hands bound behind their backs.

A deputy from the Alameda County coroner's office said there were no apparent wounds on the bodies, but an autopsy would be conducted today to determine how and when they were killed.

Neighbors, who said they last saw Goodwin about 3 p.m. Sunday, reported hearing what may have been gunshots Sunday night.

Police confiscated three automobiles near the home. The windows of one of the cars had been shot out.

The two-story stucco duplex with a street-level garage is in

See SLAIN, Back Page



Continued from Page A-1

an older North Oakland neighborhood a few blocks from the Emeryville city limit.

While investigators converged at the scene and a large group of neighbors gathered across the street, several women saying they were relatives of the unidentified murder victims arrived by car.

"That's my sister in there," one of the women cried out hysterically.

Despite their pleas, police would not let them inside the house. Several of the grieving women had to be restrained and were led away by friends.

Green said investigators found drug paraphernalia inside the house, which was being analyzed to determine what narcotics were involved.

The fully clothed bodies of Goodwin and one of the men were found in the bedroom. The clothed body of the other man was found in the living room by a neighbor who went to the home Monday night when she became concerned. She said she found the door unlocked, looked in, then summoned police.

Neighbors said they believed the house had been rented for about six months by a woman whose husband had been killed in an auto accident.

Others said the house was often occupied by several youths, and there were numerous visitors.



Tribune photo by Howard Erker

**Police confer outside the house where three were slain.**

One neighbor said she had noticed that the rear window of a car parked near the house was

shot out, and the front window had bullet holes in it, when she went to work Monday morning.

# Man sought as lover's triangle ends in death

What Oakland police describe as a lover's triangle left one man dead early today and another man sought for investigation of murder.

Killed in a hail of gunfire was Joseph Gray, 21, who lived in the 800 block of West Grand Avenue.

Police said Officer Dan Voznik was on patrol just after 11 p.m. Monday when he saw a suspicious looking group of people at the intersection of 23rd and West streets. As he turned his police car around to investigate, he heard gunfire. As he got closer, he saw a man pumping bullets into another man lying on the street.

The gunman fled, and Voznik administered first aid to the victim.

The wounded man, Gray, was taken to Providence Hospital, where he died at 1:30 a.m.

Homicide Sgt. Dan Murray said investigation revealed that Gray and another man, who is the suspect, were romantically linked to the same woman.

Gray, who was unemployed, is the city's 106th homicide victim of the year.



# Visitor to Oakland killed in argument

By Jim Douthitt  
Tribune Staff Writer

MURDER

A visitor from Sparks, Nev., involved in an argument at Jack London Square and apparently stabbed early Saturday morning, was pronounced dead about an hour later when he collapsed and was rushed to Washington Hospital in Fremont.

The Alameda County coroner's office identified the dead man as Thomas Tyler, 31, who was visiting relatives in Fremont with his wife, Jan.

Tyler and Kenneth Fallon were sightseeing in Jack London Square about 2 a.m. when they became involved in an argument with one or more unknown individuals at Fourth Street and Broadway, police were told.

According to the coroner's office, Tyler was seated in a car driven by Fallon when someone struck him forcibly.

Fallon, believing Tyler was not seriously hurt, drove to Fremont to the home of his relatives. About the time they arrived, Tyler lapsed into unconsciousness. He was rushed to nearby Washington Hospital but was dead when he arrived there.

Police initially concluded he had been stabbed. But the coroner's office indicated an autopsy would be required to determine the cause of death.

Homicide investigator Sgt. Frank Mellott said Tyler's death could not be classified as a homicide until the coroner's office determines the cause of death.



# Shooting death finishes argument over drugs

By Harry Harris  
Tribune Staff Writer

AN Oakland man who was angry because someone had given narcotics to his girlfriend was shot to death by the man he accused of supplying the drugs, homicide investigators said Tuesday.

Joseph L. Cannon, 32, of Campbell Street, was shot about 11:20 p.m. Monday in the 1000 block of Kirkham Court. He died of multiple gunshot wounds at 7 a.m. Tuesday at Providence Hospital.

Witnesses told police Cannon and his girlfriend were at a small party at a house on Kirkham Court Monday night.

According to witness, Sgt.

Alex Smith said, Cannon accused a man identified only as "Wayne" of supplying narcotics to his girlfriend Friday.

Cannon and "Wayne" agreed to step outside and fight, partygoers told police. But before the first punch was thrown, the other man pulled a gun and shot Cannon, the witnesses said.

Smith said shots were fired at Cannon's feet, past both sides of his face, and then he was shot in the abdomen.

Smith said witnesses told police the gunman started to walk away but came back and shot Cannon two more times.

Smith said police are still trying to identify "Wayne."

It was Oakland's 107th homicide of 1981.

# Boy, 15, held in shooting death of father

*MURDER*  
A 15-year-old boy who was criticized for school truancy and bad grades pulled out a gun Thursday night, shot his father fatally and then called police to say the man had attempted suicide, detectives said.

The police radio room received a 6:30 p.m. phone call in which the boy said his father had just shot himself in their home in the 2100 block of 94th Avenue.

Responding officers found King G. Baker, 32, a city of Oakland parks department repairman, suffering from multiple gunshot wounds but still alive. He was taken to Highland Hospital, where he died at 11 p.m.

Homicide Sgt. Jim Hahn said police technician Richard Stockton, in examining the scene, found physical evidence indicating Baker's wounds were not self-inflicted.

The boy was taken to police headquarters, and in an interview, Hahn said, told officers his father had not committed suicide. He told police he had shot his father with a small-caliber handgun.

Hahn said the boy and his father had apparently become involved in an argument over his grades and truancy. The boy was being held in juvenile hall for suspicion of murder, and the investigation was continuing.

It was Oakland's 108th homicide of 1981, compared with 112 for the same time last year.

NOV 10 1981

## Man's body found

OAKLAND — The body of an unidentified man who apparently had been fatally shot was found today underneath an oak tree behind DeFremery Recreation Center, 1651 Adeline St.

Gardeners reporting to work found the man's body at about 7:50 a.m.

Sgt. Burnie Matthews said investigators were not immediately able to determine where the man had been killed. It appeared he had been dead for only a few hours.

The man was described as black, in his 30s, wearing maroon pants, a green and white striped shirt and a maroon coat.

It was Oakland's 110th homicide of 1981, compared with 113 at the same time last year.

# Student shot to death

MURDER  
OAKLAND

APR 18 1981  
Police are searching for Irving Picou Jr., 31, in connection with the slaying of Roy C. Brown, a San Francisco business college student who was gunned down Tuesday afternoon in the Fruitvale District.

Police said Brown was shot about 5:10 p.m. outside an apartment house at 3064 Champion St.

The 31-year-old Brown, Oakland's 111th homicide victim this year, died at the scene of a single gunshot wound in the chest.

Sgt. Mike Sitterud said Picou was seen leaving on School Street in a 1976 green Ford van. Picou's last known address was 2733 School St.

Sitterud declined to discuss a motive in



# Cops hold man in probe of shooting

By Pamela Abouzeid  
Tribune Staff Writer

NOV 19 1981  
MURDER

A 23-year-old private security guard is in custody for investigation of the shooting death early today of Vernon Washington outside an East 14th Street motorcycle club in East Oakland.

David Winkfield, a guard at Food King on East 14th, is under police guard at Highland Hospital where he is being treated for a bullet wound sustained when a crowd of My Club patrons opened fire on him after Washington was shot, police said.

Though members of many motorcycle clubs frequent My Club, neither the victim nor the suspect are known affiliates of motorcycle clubs.

Washington, 28, whose last known address was on Olive Street, had tried to break up a fight between Winkfield and another club patron when he was shot several times shortly before 1 a.m., according to Sgt. Mike Sitterud.

Sitterud gave this account of what happened:

After leaving work at 9 p.m.

Wednesday, Winkfield, still in uniform, went to My Club where he became involved in an argument with a man in the middle of the dance floor.

The man continued the argument in the parking lot outside the club, drawing several patrons with them. While the two men were fighting, several other fistfights broke out on the lot.

At one point, Washington intervened in the fight between Winkfield and the other man and ended up fighting alone with Winkfield on 61st Avenue.

In front of a crowd of patrons, Winkfield allegedly pulled a gun and shot Vernon, who was unarmed, several times.

Witnesses yelled at Winkfield to "drop the gun, drop the gun" and when he failed to do so, the crowd then started shooting from across the street at him. At least a dozen shots were fired at him but only one bullet hit Winkfield, in his left ankle.

With the crowd in pursuit, Winkfield jumped into his car and drove himself to Highland, where he was met by police.



# Oakland man shot to death

NOV 22 1981

MURDER

Oakland police are awaiting the recovery of a taxi driver, shot early Saturday morning, to shed some light on the gunfire that erupted at 59th and Grove streets, leaving him gravely wounded and another man dead.

Patrolmen sent to the North Oakland location at 3:30 a.m. to investigate reports of gunshots found Steven Williams, 23, of 3204 Adeline St., lying unconscious on the sidewalk and bleeding from bullet wounds.

About 100 feet from Williams, officers found Yellow Cab driver Kenneth McKinley, 27, slumped over in his vehicle. He too had been shot.

Williams, wounded in the groin and the thigh, died at Merritt Hospital about three hours after the shooting.

McKinley, who underwent surgery Saturday afternoon, was in fair condition later at Providence Hospital.

Homicide detectives, who found "many discrepancies" during their investigation of the two shootings, cautioned that they could not label Williams or McKinley as "suspects" in the gunplay.

# Woman is found shot in locked car

NOV 26 1981

MURDER

A woman who appeared to be in her late 20s was found dead in a locked car in East Oakland on Wednesday, shot several times with a large-caliber gun.

She is unidentified.

Police were summoned to the end of Empire Road just after noon by a youngster who saw the body as he walked past the gray Chevrolet Nova parked alongside a fence.

Homicide Sgt. Frank Mellott said he doesn't think robbery was a motive because the woman's valuables were in the car.

Residents of the vicinity heard no unusual sounds during the night. They said there is a lot of foot traffic through the lot connecting the end of Empire Road with 105th Avenue, and couples occasionally park there.

The killing was Oakland's 115th homicide of 1981.

**MURDER**

## Shooting victim identified

NOV 28 1981

OAKLAND — A woman found shot to death in an ~~East Oakland~~ lot was identified Friday as Elsie Castillo, 29, of Alameda, a teller at the Naval Air Station credit union.

She was identified by a co-worker.

, Her last known address was an apartment in the 400 block of Buena Vista Avenue.

She was found Wednesday afternoon shot several times in a locked car parked at the end of Empire Road.

# Autopsy in homicide

OAKLAND — An autopsy was to be performed today to determine the cause of death of Patricia Jean Finn, 42, who was found shortly before 1:30 p.m. Monday in the bedroom of her East 12th Street apartment.

According to homicide Sgt Jim Hahn, the victim had been dead for several days. Police were called by the apartment manager, and are treating the death as a homicide, which would make it 116 so far this year for Oakland.

DEC 3 1961

## Husband held in slaying

**OAKLAND** — A nine-year relationship ended tragically today when a 21-year-old woman was shot to death and her boyfriend arrested for investigation of murder.

Police were summoned at about 1:30 a.m. to the intersection of 99th and Stanley avenues where they found Violena Campbell dead from a gunshot wound to the head in the backseat of a car.

Homicide Sgt. Alex Smith said investigation led them to a home on Burr Street where they arrested Anthony Crawford, 21.

Smith said that family members told police Crawford had come home a short time earlier and told them he had just shot Campbell, his girlfriend for the last nine years.

Police said the woman had a 3-month-old child by Crawford, in whose car the body was found.



# Girl wakes to mother's death cries

By HARRY HARRIS  
Tribune Staff Writer

A young Oakland girl awakened early this morning to cries for help and found her mother dying from apparent stab wounds in the bedroom of their fashionable Trestle Glen district home.

The woman, Betty Jo Grunzweig, 36, who lives in a two-story, English Tudor-style home at 1042 Sunnyhills Road, died about 40 minutes later at Highland Hospital.

Homicide Sgt. Alex Smith said Grunzweig's daughter, Jennifer, had fallen asleep around 10 p.m. Thursday. Shortly after 4 a.m. today, she was awakened by muffled cries coming from her mother's bedroom.

She went in, saw her mother bleeding badly, and ran to the home of a neighbor, who called police.

Smith said the wounds apparently were from stabbing, but the exact cause of death is pending an autopsy.

He said he has not determined whether the attacker was an intruder or someone the victim knew.

There were no signs of a forced entry to the home, which is on a tree-lined street with rambling multistory homes.

See DEATH, Back Page

Continued from Page A-1

The house is about a half-block away from Crocker Highlands Elementary School, and neighbors told reporters Jennifer is a student there.

Most neighbors were reluctant to talk, but some said the mother and daughter lived in the house alone. They said Grunzweig had been separated from her husband for approximately one year.

One neighbor said she had just recently gone back to work, but it was not known where.

The murder left the neighborhood in shock.

Grunzweig was described by a neighbor as "a wonderful person."

Another neighbor, out jogging with his dog, said, "She was a real nice lady. A very nice lady and a good friend."

The daughter was being cared for by friends.

It was Oakland's 119th homicide of the year.

# Domestic fights blamed in two shooting deaths

DEC 4 1981  
An Oakland construction worker was shot to death in an apparent domestic argument Thursday just four months after his marriage to a woman he had lived with for 16 years.

Police are holding Jean Austin, 36, for investigation of murder in the death of 44-year-old Charles Austin, 2214 82nd Ave., who was cut down by five shots from a handgun at a wrecking yard at 9831 Gould St. where he was working on a car. Officers said a sixth shot misfired.

Another domestic argument was blamed for the death of 21-year-old Violena Campbell, who was shot to death in a car at 99th and Stanley avenues, Oakland police reported.

Anthony Crawford, 21, Campbell's longtime boyfriend, was held for investigation of murder.

The woman's body, with a single gunshot wound to the head, was found in Crawford's parked car.

The couple had a 3-month-old child, police said.

# Shooting kills one, wounds one at restaurant

DEC 7 1981  
**MURDER**  
OAKLAND — One man was fatally wounded and a bystander suffered superficial wounds in a shooting at a San Pablo Avenue barbecue restaurant near the intersection of 53rd Street Sunday night, Oakland police reported.

According to homicide Sgt. Jim Hahn, the shooting occurred shortly after 7:30 p.m. when Daniel Fort, 56, reportedly shot Paul Holmes, 58, twice in the back. Both are Oakland residents.

The bystander, O'Brien Bell, 44,

See SHOOTING, Page B-2

Continued from Page B-1

also of Oakland, suffered a grazing gunshot wound to the abdomen. Both Bell and Holmes were transported to Providence Hospital, where Holmes died about 90 minutes later. Fort was taken

into custody and a .38 caliber revolver was recovered, police said. He was being held at Oakland City Jail for investigation of murder.

Hahn said this was the 120th recorded homicide in Oakland this year.



# **Knife victim found dead behind home**

9 1981

The body of a woman in her late 30s was found behind a home on Buena Vista Avenue in the Rockridge district Tuesday night, Oakland police said.

Homicide investigators said residents of the house where the woman lived found her body in a patio behind their garage about 7:30 p.m. after becoming concerned because she failed to appear for dinner.

Police said the woman, whose identity was withheld pending notification of relatives, had been stabbed several times.

# Unidentified body found

OAKLAND — The decomposed body of an unidentified Hispanic male was found Thursday afternoon on a trail some 75 yards off Skyline Boulevard.

Police said the body, which had apparently been there for several days, was found wrapped in a blanket by two residents who had gone out to view the sunset in the 15000 block of Skyline Boulevard.

The Alameda County coroner's office was to perform an autopsy today. Coroner's spokesman Herb Dooley noted that the victim had suffered a massive head wound.

It was Oakland's 123rd homicide this year.

# **BAY BRIEFS**

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DEC 12 1981

MURDER

## **Trail body identified**

The Alameda County coroner's office Friday identified a decomposed body found the day before on a trail off Skyline Boulevard as that of construction worker Daniel A. Arce, 29, of 2519 Foothill Blvd. He disappeared Nov. 28.

The body had a massive head injury, but the cause of death was not revealed pending further tests.

# Police say feud led to stabbing of Oakland man

By Angel Fernandez  
and Jim Greaver  
Tribune Staff Writer

DEC 15 1981

MURDER

A long-simmering feud between the younger members of two North Oakland families led to the fatal stabbing Monday evening of Raymond Reed, 21, in a liquor store in the 5800 block of Telegraph Avenue, police said.

Sgt. John Vargas said Vernon T.

Castle, 18, who lives next to Williams Liquors, was arrested shortly after the 5:20 p.m. stabbing. He was booked for investigation of murder.

Vargas said a knife with a five-inch blade that was believed to have been used in the killing was found in Castle's apartment.

Police canvassing the neighborhood also found three Molotov cock-

tails hidden behind a dwelling in the 5900 block of Canning Street, two blocks from the stabbing scene.

In addition, police said they were investigating a report that gunshots were fired into the Castle residence shortly after Reed was killed.

Neighbors told police that the younger members of the Reed and Castle families had been engaged in a bitter dispute for several months.

Vargas said the investigation was continuing and noted that police have increased patrols in the area because of the possibility that a gang war was developing.

Reed, who was stabbed once in the chest, was pronounced dead at Alta Bates Hospital in Berkeley. He was Oakland's 124th homicide victim this year.

# Man's death ruled as a homicide

DEC 15 1981  
OAKLAND — The death of a Sparks, Nev., man in an argument Oct. 31 in Jack London Square was classified as a homicide Monday following an autopsy report that said he died of a blow to the head.

Police Sgt. Frank Mellott said the blow ruptured a blood vessel in the brain of Thomas Tyler, 31. Tyler and a friend, Kenneth Fallon, were sightseeing in the square about 2 a.m. when they got into a fight with several people who escaped afterward.



# released

By Harry Harris  
and Paul Grabowicz  
Tribune Staff Writers

The Alameda County district attorney's office has declined to file murder charges against five men in connection with a triple slaying stemming from Oakland's August 1980 heroin war.

The decision resulted in the release of four of the men, but Felix Mitchell, 27, alleged ringleader of a heroin ring called "The Mob," was charged in connection with another slaying.

Police accused Mitchell of ordering the murder of Carlos Dorantas, 19, in August 1977 in the mistaken belief that he was a Black Panther trying to extort money.

Freed from Oakland City Jail Wednesday were Charles Lewis, 30; Alvin Gay, 22; Kirk J. Usher, 23, and Donald Moore, 21. Police described Lewis as an "equal partner" with Mitchell in the "Mob," and the others are believed to be lieutenants.

The five were arrested in a statewide sweep earlier this week and held on suspicion of murder in connection with the slayings of Rickey M. Walker, 25; his brother, Roger, 17, and Sandra Adamson, 21, whose bodies were found in August 1980 wrapped in plastic bags in the Oakland hills.

Police said the three were believed to be members of a rival gang called "The Family," which was feuding with the "Mob" over control of Oakland's \$1 million-a-week heroin trade.

In a terse statement after a lengthy conference in the district attorney's office, homicide Lt. Terry Green acknowledged that "investigators have found a weak link in the evidence and are unable to proceed with charges" in the 1980 slayings.

But, he noted, "The case remains open and the investigation continues."

"These people were openly bragging about those murders," he asserted, but added, "Unless people come forward to tell us that (directly), these people will continue to walk the streets."

Mitchell's arraignment in the Dorantas' case was continued until Monday at his attorney's request.

Dorantas' killing on Aug. 14., 1977, was a case of mistaken identity, according to investigators, who said Mitchell was the target of a Black Panther extortion attempt at the time.

Police said Mitchell ordered subordinates to open fire on Dorantas, who was driving by one of his businesses, because he thought Dorantas was part of a Panther hit squad.

DEC 19 1981

## Oakland man slain

OAKLAND — The body of retired welder Jiles Carr, 73, was found in his apartment here by police who came to check on him when relatives couldn't reach him by phone.

Carr was shot to death in his bed, and the apartment on the 900 block of 37th Street had been burglarized.

## *Two killed in Oakland*

# Drug quarrel leads to death

By Abby Cohn  
Tribune Staff Writer

DEC 10 1981

A 29-year-old man was fatally stabbed during an apparent quarrel with an old friend over \$25 worth of cocaine in one of two separate slayings in Oakland during a nine-hour period Friday night and Saturday morning.

In the other case, police said a Vallejo steelworker was shot to death Friday night when he answered the door of his sister's home near Mills College.

An unidentified caller opened fire when 20-year-old Marcus Allen Peterson

said his sister's common-law husband was not in, authorities said.

The slayings were the city's 126th and 127th this year.

Police, meanwhile, are continuing to investigate the shooting death of Jiles Carr, a 73-year-old retired welder, during a burglary Thursday or Friday at his 37th Street home.

In the most recent case, Melvin Smith of Oakland was stabbed before dawn Saturday during a fight in a room at the Royal Motel on MacArthur Boulevard. He later died at Oak Knoll Hos-

pital.

Shortly before 7 a.m., police arrested Raymond Starks, 27, when he was found in the attic of his father's home on Manuel Court. He was being held in city jail on suspicion of murder.

Homicide Sgt. John Vargas said the stabbing came over a small bag of cocaine. "One wanted to share; the other didn't," he said.

Police said Smith and the suspect had known each other for a dozen years and were "fairly good friends."



DEC 20 1981

## Motorist killed

OAKLAND — A motorist died Saturday evening when his car was struck broadside at 29th Avenue and East 12th Street by a car fleeing at high speed from Alameda police. Because the death resulted from the commission of a crime, police were considering it a homicide. The 44-year-old victim's identity was withheld until his family could

be notified.

Alameda police had been alerted to watch for the fleeing car, described as being used by two men who had robbed a Simas Brothers service station on Park Street in that city. Police identified the driver of the fleeing car as Ricky Mason, 34, address unknown. The passenger in the car was identified as David Hamilton, 38, a transient.

NEWS DIRECT

DEC 22 1981

~~(MURDER)~~

## Body found at Mosswood

**OAKLAND** — The body of an unidentified man clad only in shorts was found today on an embankment behind the Mosswood Park tennis court.

Police said the exact cause of death could not be determined until an autopsy, but it appeared he may have been shot.

Sgt. Marv Halliday said a woman walking to work through the park just before 8 a.m. saw the body, told two men playing tennis, who in turn called police.

Police said it appeared the man could have been killed elsewhere and dumped in the park.

The man, who was 35 to 40, had numerous tatoos on his body, the most prominent being that of a nude woman on his left thigh.

It was the city's 129th homicide this year.



# Teen-age girl found slain

DEC 24 1981

The body of a McClymonds High School honor student was found today in a West Oakland parking lot.

The girl, Ameenah Scott, 16, appeared to have been fatally stabbed, police said.

Her body was found just before 8 a.m. in a parking lot between Lowell Middle School and Lowell Park.

Scott, the oldest of four chil-

dren and a junior at McClymonds, lived in the nearby Acorn housing project, according to police.

Homicide Sgt. Jim Hahn said the teen-ager was last seen about 8 p.m. Wednesday walking toward her home. Investigators do not have any motive for the killing, Hahn said.

It was Oakland's 130th homicide of 1981.

# Oakland police seek honor student's killer

By Lloyd Boles  
Tribune Staff Writer

DEC 25 1981

Two Oakland police homicide investigators, outraged at the senseless slaying of McClymonds High School honor student Ameenah Scott, worked through most of Christmas Eve trying to find her killer.

"There's no reason for it, just no reason," Sgt. Dan Murray said.

Murray and partner Sgt. James Hahn left their family festivities to talk to people, and the night's work produced some leads.

"There's no drugs and no bad friends here," Murray said.

"We're dealing with a really nice girl, the daughter of fine parents, an honor student.

"There's no sense to it."

Ameenah, 16, friendly and outgoing, went to visit neighbors near her 10th Street home about 10:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Her body was found in the parking lot between Lowell Middle School and Lowell Park at 8 a.m. Thursday.

She had been stabbed several times, Murray said, and there are indications she fought for her life.

A medical examination will disclose whether she was sexually assaulted.

Ameenah was a junior at McClymonds, the oldest child in her family.

She had two sisters and a brother. Her parents, David and Mercedes Scott, were unable to discuss the tragedy.

Scott is an AC Transit bus driver.

Ameenah is the city's 130th homicide victim of 1981.

She weighed 80 pounds and was 4 feet 8 inches tall.

She was alert, vibrant and friendly, her friends said Thursday, and her eyes sparkled with the innocence of youth.

She trusted people, too, they said.

# Man killed in parking lot fight

DEC 26 1981

MURDER

What apparently started as a scuffle over a parking spot at a Giant Burgers restaurant on East 14th Street ended Christmas Eve in the fatal stabbing of a 20-year-old Oakland man.

Police said the victim, Vicente Nuno, tried to speed away in his truck after being knifed shortly before midnight. He drove three blocks before collapsing and crashing into a tree in the 3900 block of East 14th.

Nuno, who works at an auto detailing shop, died in Highland Hospi-

tal at 12:30 a.m. from a stab wound to the chest. Police said the dead man, who lived on 52nd Avenue, has a wife and small child.

Homicide Sgt. Dan Murray said Nuno and his unidentified assailant dueled in the middle of street after a fistfight broke out among several men in the parking lot.

Witnesses told police that the victim was carrying a chain and the other man was armed with a knife. Nuno "lost in the confrontation," Murray said.

# Oakland woman slain; suspect shoots himself

DEC 28 1981

A woman who was shot several times outside her Oakland home died Sunday, and her alleged assailant remained in critical condition after shooting himself in the head, police reported.

Homicide Sgt. James Hahn said police were called shortly before 6 p.m. Saturday to 2014 Fifth Ave., where Andrea Casey, 29, was found lying on a sidewalk with multiple gunshot wounds.

She was rushed to Highland Hospital, where she died Sunday evening.

Relatives at her house said she had stepped outside with a former boyfriend, Gregory M. Metoyer, 25, and an argument ensued.

Police went to Metoyer's home on 10th Avenue, where they were told by relatives he would be right with them. But moments later a shot was heard and police rushed in to the bathroom to find Metoyer collapsed with a bullet wound in the head and a pistol nearby.

Metoyer was reported in critical condition at Highland, where he was on life-support systems.



# Mystery murder victim was quiet, studious girl

By Brenda Payton  
Tribune Staff Writer

OAKLAND  
DEC 30 1981

The last time Mercedes Scott saw her 16-year-old daughter, Ameenah assured her mother not to worry about her, she was just going for a walk and no harm would come to her.

"She said, 'You worry about me too much. I know everyone around here. No one will hurt me,'" Mrs. Scott recalled.

Ameenah never returned.

The next day, the morning of Christmas Eve, Ameenah Scott's

body was found in the parking lot near Lowell Junior High School. She had been stabbed to death. Her funeral was held today at C.P. Bannon Mortuary.

From the description of family and friends, she was the least likely person to die violently. She was quiet, studious, responsible, and a loner.

An honor student at McClymonds High School, Ameenah Scott was particularly interested in mathematics and had plans to

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go into computer sciences.

"I got her a big college math book for Christmas," Mrs. Scott said.

Ameenah Scott, or "Meenah" as she was called by friends, was also fearless.

"She never believed that anything could harm her. She believed that she would live forever. She wasn't afraid of anything," her mother said.

"The funny thing is that we moved out here from New York City seven years ago to get away from the crime," Mrs. Scott continued. "We thought we were running away from it when we came here and we ran right into it."

Mrs. Scott was calm as she talked about her daughter's life and death. She and her husband, David, a bus driver for AC Transit, and their three other children, ages 15, 13 and 9, live in West Oakland.

The night Ameenah Scott disappeared, she, her best girlfriend and her younger sister were all at home talking and wrapping Christmas gifts with her mother. Ameenah had just returned from

having her braces removed by the orthodontist.

"We were all here," said Mrs. Scott, drinking a cup of herbal tea. "Her friend went home, and then about 8:30 p.m. Meenah said she was going out for a walk. I asked her where she was going, who she was going with. You know how teen-agers are, she told me not to worry, she knew everyone in the neighborhood and no one would hurt her."

From there the story is shrouded in mystery. About two hours later Ameenah called her mother and said she was at her girlfriend's house and asked permission to stay a few more minutes. According to her mother, she sounded normal.

Later Mrs. Scott discovered that she never went to her friend's house.

"That was so uncharacteristic of Meenah," Mrs. Scott said.

According to the police estimate, she was killed sometime between that telephone call and midnight.

The police investigation continues. Although investigators have some leads, Sgt. James Hahn said they are still trying to determine

the motive for the slaying. The results of a test that will indicate whether the teen-ager was sexually assaulted are still pending.

Mrs. Scott interrupts the interview to talk to one of her children.

"I know how you feel, honey. It's hard for all of us. Death affects everyone differently. But I want you to calm yourself now. It's very important, very important that we all do that now."

Sitting back in her seat, she remarked on how difficult it is

for the family to accept Ameenah's death.

"I can't even think of my own sadness. I have to keep everyone else together," she said.

Each of the Scott children has an Arabic name.

"We named them for what they meant to us," Mrs. Scott explained. Ameenah means "most precious" and her middle name, Nafeesah, means "most valuable."

"I never had any problems with Meenah. She liked to stay in

the house most of the time, watching T.V. or reading. She seemed to like being at home by herself," Mrs. Scott said, occasionally using the present tense when referring to her daughter. "She liked animals and she loved snakes. She had a snake and two mynah birds. At one time she wanted to be a vet. And she was deeply into God. She believed God is within each of us; that's our family belief. She had the Lord's Prayer and religious songs posted right near her bed."